

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method in a data processing system for managing cookies, the method comprising:
- responsive to a selected event, requesting a cookie file from a source, wherein the cookie file contains a set of cookies of previously obtained cookies and is associated with a user; and
- 10 receiving the cookie file, wherein the cookies are to access Web sites.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the selected event is a first selected event and further comprising:
- updating the cookie file during a browser session to form an updated cookie file;
- 15 and
- responsive to a second selected event, sending the updated cookie file to a source.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the source is at least one of a server, a desktop computer, a personal digital assistant, and a mobile phone
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4. The method of claim 1, wherein the selected event is one of a beginning of a browser session or a particular user input.
5. The method of claim 2, wherein the first selected event is a beginning of the
- 25 browser session and the second selected event is a termination of the browser session.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the selected event is a requirement of a cookie to access a Web site.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the cookie file includes access information.
- 5 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the cookie file includes authorization data.
9. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
selectively modifying data within the cookie file for use with the data processing
10 system.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein the data processing system is one of a laptop computer, a personal digital assistant, a mobile phone, or a smart card.
- 15 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the cookie file is received using a wireless communications link.
12. The method of claim 1, wherein the cookie file includes information on at least one of sales transactions, user preferences, a history of Web sites visited by a user.
- 20 13. A method in a data processing system for managing cookies, the method comprising:
receiving a request for a cookie file;
parsing the request to identify a user associated with the cookie file;
25 identifying a particular cookie file associated with the user; and
transmitting the particular cookie file to the user.

14. The method of claim 13 further comprising:
receiving an updated cookie file for the user; and
storing the updated cookie file in association with the user.

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15. The method of claim 13, wherein the user is identified by at least one of an
Internet Protocol address and a user name in the request.

16. The method of claim 13 further comprising:
10 billing the user for maintaining the particular cookie file.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein billing is performed on one of a per access basis
or a periodic basis.

15 18. The method of claim 14 further comprising:
selling the update cookie file.

19. A method in a data processing system for managing cookies, the method
comprising:
20 monitoring for a requirement for a cookie to access a Web site;
responsive to detecting the requirement, sending a request for the cookie to a
source storing the cookie obtained from a pervious access of the Web site by a user,
wherein the request identifies the cookie and the user;
receiving the cookie to form a received cookie; and
25 accessing the Web site using the received cookie.

20. A data processing system comprising:
a state information repository, wherein state information is are maintained for
users in the state information repository; and
a Web server, wherein the Web server monitors for requests for cookies from
5 users and returns state information to the users when requests for state information are
received.
21. The data processing system of claim 20, wherein the state information includes at
least one of a cookie, a browsing history, and a bookmark.
- 10 22. A method in data processing system for managing state information, the method
comprising:
responsive to an event, requesting state information from a source;
receiving the state information; and
15 using the state information to access data on a network data processing system.
23. The method of claim 22, wherein the event is a first event and further comprising:
altering the state information in response to accessing the network data processing
system to form new state information; and
20 sending the new state information to the source in response to a second event.
24. The method of claim 22, wherein the state information includes at least one of a
cookie, a history, and a bookmark.
- 25 25. A method in a data processing system for sharing state information, the method
comprising:

maintaining a repository of state information for a set of users, wherein data within the state information files are user by the set of users to access information on other data processing systems; and

5 providing the a user from the set of users access to a state information file associated with the user to access other data processing systems.

26. The method of claim 25 further comprising:

selectively combining state information from state information files within the repository of state information files to form a new state information file.

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27. The method of clam 26 further comprising:

offering the new state information file for sale to a third party.

28. The method of claim 25 further comprising:

15 billing the set of users for providing access the repository.

29. The method of claim 25 further comprising:

receiving updated information to a state information file within the repository from a user; and

20 updating the state information file with the updated information.

30. The method of claim 25, wherein the state information includes at least one of a cookie, a history, and a bookmark.

25 31. A data processing system comprising:
a bus system;

a communications unit connected to the bus system;
a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes as set of instructions; and

- 5 a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to request a cookie file from a source, wherein the cookie file contains a set of cookies of previously obtained cookies and is associated with a user in response to a selected event; and receive the cookie file, wherein the cookies are to access Web sites.

- 10 32. A data processing system comprising:

a bus system;
a communications unit connected to the bus system;
a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes as set of instructions; and

- 15 a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to receive a request for a cookie file; parse the request to identify a user associated with the cookie file; identify a particular cookie file associated with the user; and transmit the particular cookie file to the user.

- 20 33. A data processing system comprising:

a bus system;
a communications unit connected to the bus system;
a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes as set of instructions; and

- 25 a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to monitor for a requirement for a cookie to access a Web

site; send a request for the cookie to a source storing the cookie obtained from a pervious access of the Web site by a user, wherein the request identifies the cookie and the user in response to detecting the requirement; receive the cookie to form a received cookie; and access the Web site using the received cookie.

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34. A data processing system comprising:

a bus system;

a communications unit connected to the bus system;

a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes as set of

10 instructions; and

a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit

executes the set of instructions to maintain a repository of cookies files for a set of users, wherein data within the cookie files are user by the set of users to access information on other data processing systems; and provide the a user from the set of users access to a

15 cookie file associated with the user to access other data processing systems.

35. A data processing system comprising:

a bus system;

a communications unit connected to the bus system;

20 a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes as set of instructions; and

a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit

executes the set of instructions to request state information from a source in response to an event; receive the state information; and use the state information to access data on a

25 network data processing system.

36. A data processing system for managing cookies, the data processing system comprising:

requesting means, responsive to a selected event, for requesting a cookie file from a source, wherein the cookie file contains a set of cookies of previously obtained cookies

5 and is associated with a user; and

receiving means for receiving the cookie file, wherein the cookies are to access Web sites.

37. The data processing system of claim 36 wherein the selected event is a first selected event and further comprising:

10 updating means for updating the cookie file during a browser session to form an updated cookie file; and

sending means, responsive to a second selected event, for sending the updated cookie file to a source.

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38. The data processing system of claim 36, wherein the source is at least one of a server, a desktop computer, a personal digital assistant, and a mobile phone

39. The data processing system of claim 36, wherein the selected event is one of a beginning of a browser session or a particular user input.

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40. The data processing system of claim 37, wherein the first selected event is a beginning of the browser session and the second selected event is a termination of the browser session.

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41. The data processing system of claim 36, wherein the selected event is a requirement of a cookie to access a Web site.
42. The data processing system of claim 36, wherein the cookie file includes access information.
43. The data processing system of claim 36, wherein the cookie file includes authorization data.
44. The data processing system of claim 36 further comprising:
selectively means for selectively modifying data within the cookie file for use with the data processing system.
45. The data processing system of claim 36, wherein the data processing system is one of a laptop computer, a personal digital assistant, a mobile phone, or a smart card.
46. The data processing system of claim 36, wherein the cookie file is received using a wireless communications link.
47. The data processing system of claim 36, wherein the cookie file includes information on at least one of sales transactions, user preferences, a history of Web sites visited by a user.
48. A data processing system for managing cookies, the data processing system comprising:
receiving means for receiving a request for a cookie file;

parsing means for parsing the request to identify a user associated with the cookie file;

identifying means for identifying a particular cookie file associated with the user; and

5 transmitting means for transmitting the particular cookie file to the user.

49. The data processing system of claim 48, wherein the receiving means is a first receiving means and further comprising:

10 second receiving means for receiving an updated cookie file for the user; and
storing means for storing the updated cookie file in association with the user.

50. The data processing system of claim 48, wherein the user is identified by at least one of an Internet Protocol address and a user name in the request.

15 51. The data processing system of claim 48 further comprising:
billing means for billing the user for maintaining the particular cookie file.

52. The data processing system of claim 51, wherein billing is performed on one of a per access basis or a periodic basis.

20 53. The data processing system of claim 49 further comprising:
selling means for selling the update cookie file.

54. A data processing system for managing cookies, the data processing system
25 comprising:

monitoring means for monitoring for a requirement for a cookie to access a Web site;

sending means responsive to detecting the requirement, for sending a request for the cookie to a source storing the cookie obtained from a pervious access of the Web site

5 by a user, wherein the request identifies the cookie and the user;

receiving means for receiving the cookie to form a received cookie; and

accessing means for accessing the Web site using the received cookie.

55. A method in a data processing system for sharing state information, the method
10 comprising:

maintaining means for maintaining a repository of state information for a set of users, wherein data within the state information files are user by the set of users to access information on other data processing systems; and

15 providing means for providing the a user from the set of users access to a state information file associated with the user to access other data processing systems.

56. The data processing system of claim 55 further comprising:

selectively means for selectively combining cookies from cookies files within the repository of cookies files to form a new cookie file.

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57. The data processing system of clam 56 further comprising:

offering means for offering the new cookie file for sale to a third party.

58. The data processing system of claim 55 further comprising:

25 billing means for billing the set of users for providing access the repository.

59. The data processing system of claim 55 further comprising:
receiving means for receiving updated information to a cookie file within the
repository from a user; and
updating means for updating the cookie file with the updated information.

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60. A data processing system for managing state information, the method comprising:
requesting means, responsive to an event, for requesting state information from a
source;
receiving means for receiving the state information; and
10 using means for using the state information to access data on a network data
processing system.

61. The data processing system of claim 60, wherein the event is a first event and
further comprising:

15 altering the state information in response to accessing the network data processing
system to form new state information; and
sending the new state information to the source in response to a second event.

62. The data processing system of claim 60, wherein the state information includes at
20 least one of a cookie, a history, and a bookmark.

63. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for managing
cookies, the computer program product comprising:

25 first instructions, responsive to a selected event, for requesting a cookie file from
a source, wherein the cookie file contains a set of cookies of previously obtained cookies
and is associated with a user; and

second instructions for receiving the cookie file, wherein the cookies are to access Web sites.

64. The computer program product of claim 63 wherein the selected event is a first
5 selected event and further comprising:

third instructions for updating the cookie file during a browser session to form an updated cookie file; and

fourth instructions, responsive to a second selected event, for sending the updated cookie file to a source.

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65. The computer program product of claim 63, wherein the source is at least one of a server, a desktop computer, a personal digital assistant, and a mobile phone

66. The computer program product of claim 63, wherein the selected event is one of a
15 beginning of a browser session or a particular user input.

67. The computer program product of claim 64, wherein the first selected event is a beginning of the browser session and the second selected event is a termination of the browser session.

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68. The computer program product of claim 63, wherein the selected event is a requirement of a cookie to access a Web site.

69. The computer program product of claim 63, wherein the cookie file includes
25 access information.

70. The computer program product of claim 63, wherein the cookie file includes authorization data.

71. The computer program product of claim 63 further comprising:

5 third instructions for selectively modifying data within the cookie file for use with the data processing system.

72. The computer program product of claim 63, wherein the data processing system is one of a laptop computer, a personal digital assistant, a mobile phone, or a smart card.

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73. The computer program product of claim 63, wherein the cookie file is received using a wireless communications link.

74. The computer program product of claim 63, wherein the cookie file includes

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information on at least one of sales transactions, user preferences, a history of Web sites visited by a user.

75. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for managing cookies, the computer program product comprising:

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first instructions for receiving a request for a cookie file;

second instructions for parsing the request to identify a user associated with the cookie file;

third instructions for identifying a particular cookie file associated with the user;

and

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fourth instructions for transmitting the particular cookie file to the user.

76. The computer program product of claim 75 further comprising:
fifth instructions for receiving an updated cookie file for the user; and
sixth instructions for storing the updated cookie file in association with the user.
- 5 77. The computer program product of claim 75, wherein the user is identified by at least one of an Internet Protocol address and a user name in the request.
78. The computer program product of claim 75 further comprising:
fifth instructions for billing the user for maintaining the particular cookie file.
- 10 79. The computer program product of claim 78, wherein billing is performed on one of a per access basis or a periodic basis.
80. The computer program product of claim 76 further comprising:
15 fifth instructions for selling the update cookie file.
81. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for managing cookies, the computer program product comprising:
first instructions for monitoring for a requirement for a cookie to access a Web
20 site;
second instructions, responsive to detecting the requirement, for sending a request for the cookie to a source storing the cookie obtained from a pervious access of the Web site by a user, wherein the request identifies the cookie and the user;
third instructions for receiving the cookie to form a received cookie; and
25 fourth instructions for accessing the Web site using the received cookie.

82. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for sharing state information, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for maintaining a repository of cookies files for a set of users, wherein data within the cookie files are user by the set of users to access information on
5 other data processing systems;

second instructions for providing the a user from the set of users access to a cookie file associated with the user to access other data processing systems.

83. The computer program product of claim 82 further comprising:

10 third instructions for selectively combining cookies from cookies files within the repository of cookies files to form a new cookie file.

84. The computer program product of clam 83 further comprising:

fourth instructions for offering the new cookie file for sale to a third party.
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85. The computer program product of claim 82 further comprising:

third instructions for billing the set of users for providing access the repository.

86. The computer program product of claim 82 further comprising:

20 third instructions for receiving updated information to a cookie file within the repository from a user; and

fourth instructions for updating the cookie file with the updated information.

87. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for managing state

25 information, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions, responsive to an event, for requesting state information from a source;

second instructions for receiving the state information; and

third instructions for using the state information to access data on a network data
5 processing system.

88. The computer program product of claim 87, wherein the event is a first event and further comprising:

fourth instructions for altering the state information in response to accessing the
10 network data processing system to form new state information; and

fifth instructions for sending the new state information to the source in response to a second event.

89. The computer program product of claim 87, wherein the state information
15 includes at least one of a cookie, a history, and a bookmark.